

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02840 221408Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 SY-05 MCT-01 FBO-02 A-01 OPR-02 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/114 W

-----077942 221411Z /53

O R 221321Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8045
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2840

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 22, 1978 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2794 (DTG 181110Z MAY 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERTO GUYER MET
WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS IN BEIRUT ON MAY 20 AND YASIR ARAFAT IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02840 221408Z

DAMASCUS ON MAY 21. PALESTINIANS IN CHATEAU BEAUFORT SHELLED
CHRISTIAN POSITIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. UNKNOWN PERSONS PAINTED
THE PROPHET'S NAME ON THE STREET ACROSS FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.
PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND SPEAKER KAMAL AL-ASSAD DIFFERED PUB-
LICLY ABOUT THE PERMANENCE OF THE PRESENT CABINET. END SUMMARY.

2. UN REP IN BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS.

UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERTO GUYER MET WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS IN BEIRUT ON MAY 20 AND WITH YASIR ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS ON MAY 21. GUYER GAVE PRESIDENT SARKIS A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM EXPRESSING THE DESIRE OF THE UN TO COOPERATE WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSC RESOLUTION 425. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR, ARAFAT REAFFIRMED THE PLO'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL IF: (A) ISRAEL WITHDREW COMPLETELY FROM SOUTH LEBANON; (B) THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CAIRO AGREEMENT WERE RESOLVED. IN THIS CONNECTION, A PLO SPOKESMAN, ABDIL MOHSIN ABU MAYZAR, TOLD REPORTERS IN DAMASCUS THAT THE PLO WAS WILLING TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOL TO DISCUSS PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE RELATIONS. (NOTE: GUYER ARRIVED IN BEIRUT ON MAY 19, NOT MAY 17 AS REPORTED PREVIOUS SITREP).

3. SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.

ON MAY 19 PALESTINIANS IN CHATEAU BEAUFORT SHELLED CHRISTIAN POSITIONS IN MARJAYUN AND DAYR MIMAS. THE SAME DAY NEGOTIATIONS RESULTED IN THE PEACEFUL WITHDRAWAL OF 60 OF 80 ARMED PALESTINIANS WHO HAD TAKEN UP HILLTOP POSITIONS ABOUT SEVEN MILES EAST OF TYRE, ACCORDING TO IKE. UNIFIL'S TOTAL STRENGTH AS OF MAY 22 WAS ABOUT 4500 (SEPTEL).

4. SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02840 221408Z

A. DAILY INCIDENTS CONTINUE IN BEIRUT. ON MAY 19 UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS AGAIN BOMBED SMITH'S, A POPULAR GROCERY STORE IN WEST BEIRUT, CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NO CASUALTIES. THE SAME DAY, A GUNMAN SHOT AT BUT MISSED GEORGE SHAMI, THE DIRECTOR OF A BRANCH OF THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY IN THE CHRISTIAN SUBURB OF FURN ASH-SHUBBAK. THE GUNMAN WAS APPARENTLY ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF TWO STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENROLL THIS SEMESTER BECAUSE THEY HAD APPLIED AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION.

B. DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 21, AN UNKNOWN PERSON PAINTED THE PROPHET'S NAME ON THE STREET ACROSS FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. LOCAL MUSLIMS CONSIDER THIS A SERIOUS INSULT. LOCAL GUNMEN FIRED PISTOLS INTO THE SEA ACROSS FROM THE EMBASSY IN PROTEST.

5. AL HOSS/AL ASSAD CONTROVERSY.

PRIME MINISTER AL HOSS AND SPEAKER KAMAL AL ASSAD HAVE ENGAGED IN A PUBLIC SQUABBLE OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, AS REPORTED BY IKE. ON MAY 17 A REPORTER ASKED ASSAD WHETHER THE CABINET WOULD IMPLEMENT PARLIAMENT'S SIX-POINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. ASSAD REPLIED HE DID NOT EXPECT THE CABINET TO COMMIT ITSELF "BECAUSE

IT IS A TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT." ON MAY 18 HOSS TOOK EXCEPTION TO ASSAD'S ASSERTION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TEMPORARY. HOSS SAID HE HAD AGREED EARLIER WITH THE SPEAKER THAT THE CABINET AFTER WITHDRAWING ITS RESIGNATION WAS "IN A STATE OF CONTINUITY." ASSAD REPLIED ON MAY 19: "WHAT DO YOU MEAN AGREED? WE AGREED ON THE REFLOATING OF THE GOVERNMENT, THAT'S ALL."

6. NOTE: THE ISRAEL-LEBANON MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION (ILMAC) HAS RECENTLY TAKEN ON THE ADDITIONAL FUNCTION OF UNITED NATIONS LIAISON OFFICER/BEIRUT (UNLOB). ILMAC WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST, AND FRENCH COLONEL JEAN ESPINASSY WILL BE IN CHARGE OF BOTH FUNCTIONS.
LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT02840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-0493
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780531/aaaabafa.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1aa70799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 2794
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2611043
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION: MAY 22, 1978 1300 HOURS LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1aa70799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014